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The Society



THIS MEMORIAL
WAS ERECTED IN 1907
BY THE SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS
IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
TO MARK THE ROAD OVER WHICH
ON APRIL 14, 1755
A DIVISION OF THE BRITISH ARMY
UNDER GENERAL BRADDOCK
MARCHED ON ITS WAY
TO FORT DUQUESNE.

Historical Address of Marcus Benjamin, Ph. D., Sc. D., Governor of the Society of Colonial Wars in the District of Columbia, with other papers relative to the dedication of the Braddock Boulder, in the Cathedral Grounds, Mount St. Alban, Washington, D. C., Sunday, November 10, 1907   

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=====COMPILED AND PRINTED=====

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

===== APRIL, 1908 =====



PRESS OF
THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE CO.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

BY DR. MARCUS BENJAMIN, GOVERNOR OF THE SOCIETY OF COLONIAL
WARS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, NOVEMBER 10, 1907.

The Society of Colonial Wars in the District of Columbia is fortunate to-day in dedicating the first memorial ever erected in this vicinity in commemoration of a historical event during the Colonial period.

Commemoration of a Historical Event.

In this act it follows the splendid example of the General Society of Colonial Wars, which, on June 17, 1895, erected at Louisbourg, on Cape Breton Island, a noble shaft in commemoration of the capture of Louisbourg in 1745 by the Colonial forces under Lieut.-Gen. William Pepperell. Of this event it is said: "The New England forces, raw troops, commanded by untrained officers, astonished the world by capturing the supposed impregnable fortress." Again, in September, 1903, our General Society erected at Lake George a monument in commemoration of the great victory of the Colonial soldiers under Col. William Johnson over the allied forces of French and Indians commanded by Baron de Dieskau. And from time to time the various State societies of our organization have raised memorials in honor of the heroic deeds performed by our ancestors of English blood who fought on this continent with the same magnificent valor that has ever been characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon race.

Over yonder highway, known in history as Braddock's road, a little more than 150 years ago, following the flag of our mother country, a brave band of soldiers, in order to better protect the homes of our ancestors, passed in front of this spot on their way to cruel disaster.

To-day, under the green canopy of these splendid trees, silent witnesses of that scene, within the precincts of this

sacred ground, recently consecrated by the presence of the holy prelates of both the English and our own Church, we, the descendants of worthy ancestors, are gathered to place a permanent marker in enduring stone and bronze in memory of that event.

Of the ill-fated Braddock a brief word may be said:

General Edward Braddock.

Edward Braddock was the son of Maj.-Gen. Edward Braddock, of the Coldstream Guards, and was born in Perthshire, Scotland, in 1695. Choosing the profession of arms, he entered his father's regiment as an Ensign in 1710. Promotions came with time, and in 1746, while in command of a battalion of the Coldstreams, he saw war service in Holland under the Prince of Orange. In 1753 he was given a regiment, and a year later was made Major-General. He is said to have been a favorite with William, Duke of Cumberland, through whose influence he received, in 1754, the appointment of "General and Commander-in-Chief of all our troops and forces yt are in North America or yt shall be sent or rais'd there to indicate our just rights and possessions." A copy of this warrant is still preserved among the archives in Philadelphia. Braddock was a loyal and faithful soldier, a good tactician, but a very martinet, proud, prejudiced and conceited. Horace Walpole refers to him as a "very Iroquois in disposition."

In the settlement of the New World the adventurous explorers of many Nations took part, but of those certainly in the eastern part of North America, which has become our country, the representatives of the French and English were most conspicuous. It is interesting to note that for the most part the English settled along the shores of the Atlantic, and of this fact Jamestown and Plymouth are conspicuous illustrations. On the other hand, the French followed the courses of the great streams of the continent, and we find them ascending the St. Lawrence. As the English spread inland, so the French continued their explorations up the rivers, until in time they reached the country of the Great Lakes, and with the cross of the Holy Church ever leading made their way

to the Mississippi, and thence in 1682 La Salle, our first great pioneer of the West, with his flotilla of canoes, descended its mighty waters to the Gulf of Mexico, and Louisiana was added to the possessions of the King of France.

In order to hold this territory of Louisiana, which was ceded to us in 1803 by France, and gave to us the "splendid empire west of the Mississippi," the French erected a series of forts, of which the one at the meeting of the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers, where the city of Pittsburg now is, was called Duquesne, in honor of the Governor of New France. The growth of the English colonies and the encroachment of the French on the domains claimed by the former, together with the depredations of the Indians, could but lead to one result. The terrible struggle for supremacy between two great Nations was about to begin, and the outcome would determine the possession of a continent.

Encroachment of the French.

Braddock arrived in Hampton Roads, Virginia, on Feb. 20, 1755, and ordered his transports to proceed at once up the Potomac to Alexandria, where a camp was to be formed. He himself followed more leisurely, and did not reach the camp till the end of March. Of the events that followed before the order was given to start on the expedition that was to terminate so unfortunately, for himself, we need not concern ourselves, but it is of more than passing interest to mention the cruel apathy of the people whose homes this British soldier had come to protect. Says Parkman on this point: "Contracts broken or disavowed, want of horses, want of wagons, want of forage, want of wholesome food, or sufficient food of any kind, caused such delay that the report of it reached England, and drew from Walpole the comment that Braddock was in no hurry to be scalped. In reality he was maddened with impatience and vexation."

It was Benjamin Franklin, then Postmaster of Pennsylvania, who came to his rescue, and made it possible for him to obtain the much-needed supplies and means of transportation. Braddock's comment on Franklin in a private letter

is that he was "almost the only instance of ability and honesty I have known in these Provinces."

It was not until April that a forward movement was possible, and the history of the expedition has been carefully preserved by the diary of Capt. Robert Orme, who served as an Aid to Braddock. His record is as follows:

"On the 12th (of April), agreeably to our orders, we proceeded and arrived at Rock Creek at 10 o'clock. This place is five miles from the lower falls of Potomack, and four from the eastern branch of it. Here our men got quarters, and we pitched our tents; found here Col. Dunbar, whose orders we put ourselves under."

Another source of information is the Orderly Book of Braddock, which was published through the interest of the late William H. Lowdermilk, long a resident of Washington. It is in this work, under date of April 28, that the following orders appear:

"To Ensign French, at Rock Creek. You are ordered by His Excellency, Gen. Braddock, to forward with all expedition the ammunition stores, etc., at Rock Creek to Mr. Cresaps Conogogee, taking care to send the ammunition train, stores, etc., first, then the hospital stores and salt fish.

"You are not to wait for the beeves, but as soon as the aforementioned things are gone up you will move with your party and join the regiment at Wills Creek agreeable to the following march route. As you will find provisions very scarce on the road, you must take with you as many days of salt provisions as the men can carry.

"From Rock Creek to Owens Ordy, 15 miles; to Dowdens, 15 miles; to Frederick, 15 miles; on the road to Conogogee, 17 miles; to Conogogee, 18 miles; to John Evan's, 16 miles; to Widow Baringer's, 18 miles; to George Polls's, nine miles; to Henry Enock's, 15 miles; to Mr. Cox's, 12 miles; to Col. Cresap's, eight miles; to Wills Creek, 16 miles; total. 174 miles.

"You must, if you should find it necessary, take with you guides from place to place, and make such halts as you shall find absolutely necessary, being careful not to lose any time."

The Line of March.

The line of march, therefore, was from Rock Creek to Owens Ordinary, a place elsewhere referred to as the house of "one Lawrence Owens, 15 miles from Rock Creek and eight miles from the upper falls of Potomack." This Owens house has been accepted as being at Rockville, and the route therefore from Rock Creek to Rockville was along the road directly in front of our memorial.

I have been somewhat particular in being precise as to my statements, and properly so, for the reason that no map is known to exist giving the exact route followed by Braddock between Alexandria and Frederick. Elsewhere I have presented the claims of the so-called Braddock's Rock, near the site of the present Naval Museum of Hygiene and Medical School, as the landing place of the troops who came by water from Alexandria, but the line of march from Rock Creek to Frederick could have been over no other road than that now known as the Rockville pike. It is of more than passing interest to add in this connection that the worthy historian of our Society, Mr. Gilbert Thompson, has had in course of preparation for some years a map showing the line of Braddock's march, compiled from original data collected by him.

It is not pertinent to the present occasion to follow these brave soldiers further. They reached Frederick in safety, and there Col. Washington, "the rising hope of Virginia," who had been invited to serve as a Volunteer Aid on Braddock's staff, joined the command.

Permit me, however, a final word for Braddock. The unfortunate termination of the expedition calls for our sincere sympathy. The bravery of its leader under adverse and trying conditions is conceded. Benjamin Franklin well says of him that "he had too high an idea of the validity of European troops and too low a one of Americans and Indians." His life was the forfeit of his rashness.

"After life's fitful fever he sleeps well."

Washington's Rising Star.

History very clearly shows us that the successful soldiers of one campaign became the leaders in a succeeding one. And

surely such was the case in the expedition against Fort Duquesne, for out of rout came order under the skillful direction of the youthful Washington, for whom it is said "Braddock had formed a strong attachment." The "rising hope of Virginia" became the rising star of the Colonies.

It is far from my desire to follow the home-coming of Washington, but permit me to remind you that with a few of his comrades he spent a night at Clear Water Drinking Manor, not far from the lake at Chevy Chase, and in fancy we can readily imagine that on the following morning he found his way over this very road to that beautiful home on the banks of the Potomac that lies just beyond the limits of our vision.

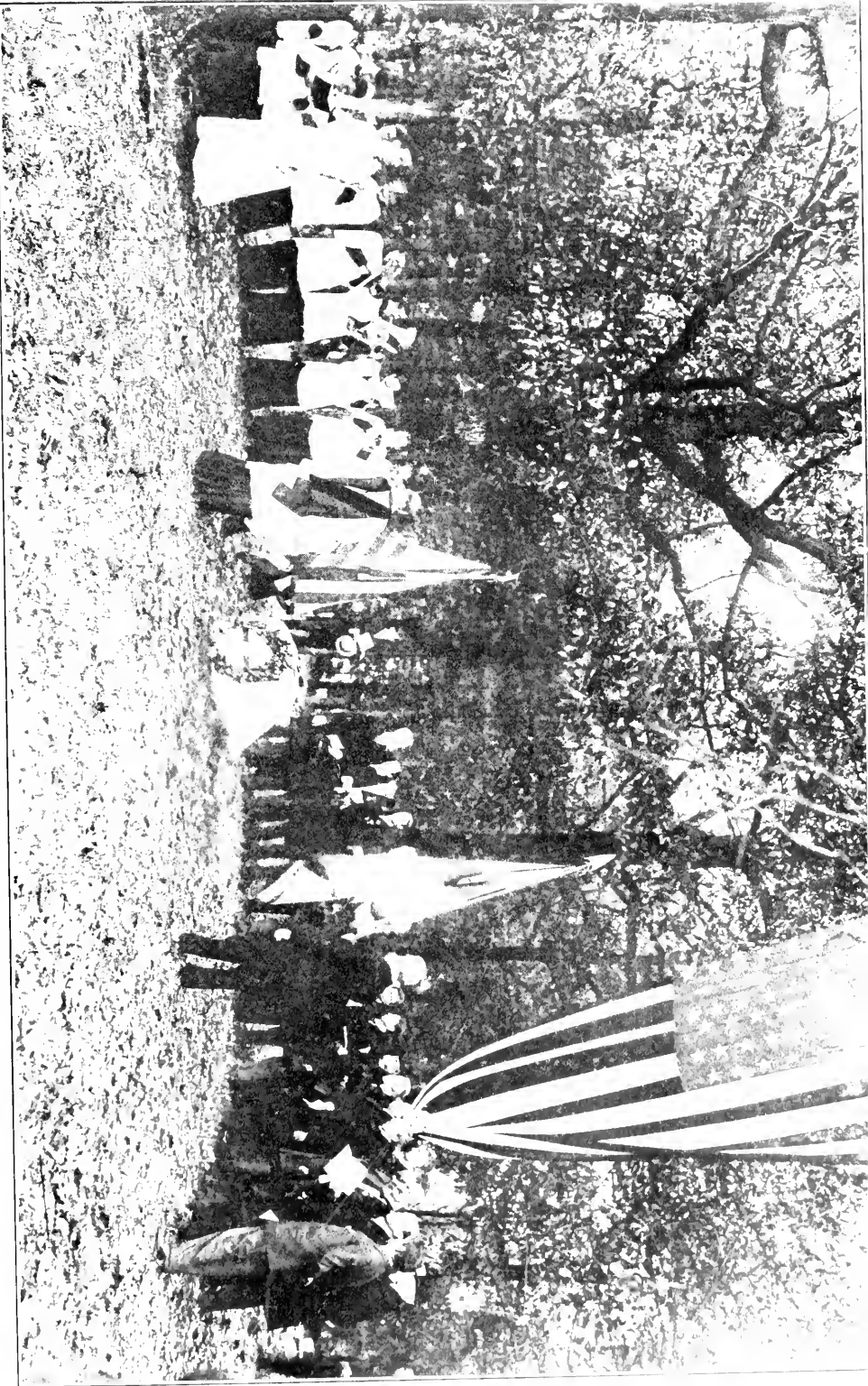
We do well, therefore, I think, to remember the name of Washington on this occasion, especially when we consider that this memorial is placed in grounds dedicated to the erection of a cathedral for members of the same faith of which he was ever a loyal adherent, and in the city which by its name preserves for all time the memory of him whom we honor as the Father of his Country.

Tennyson has written,

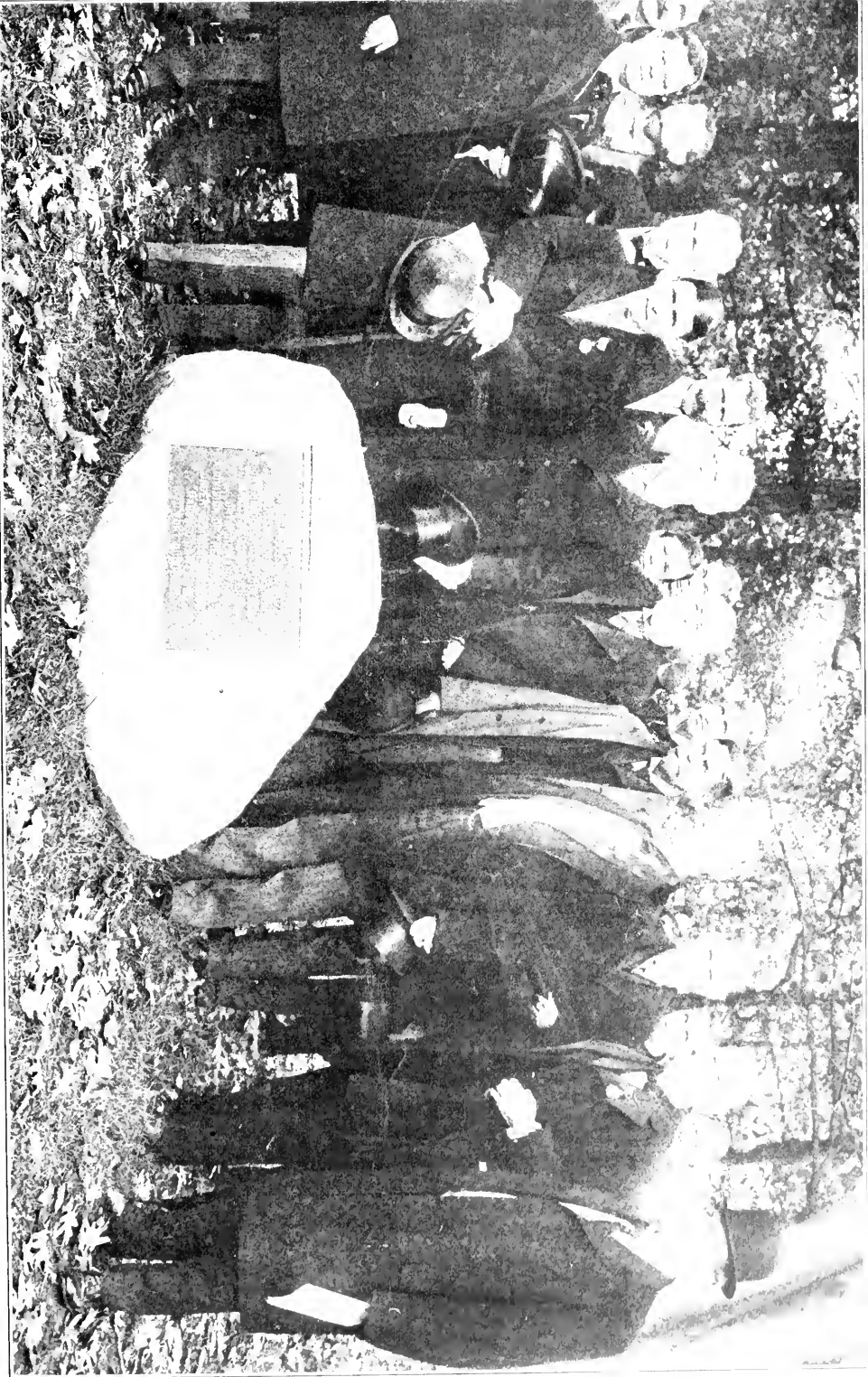
"For men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever,"

and, like the everlasting brook, this memorial will last long into the future, years after you and I shall have passed away, serving always to preserve the memory of brave men who in the early history of our country gave up their lives for its preservation.

Thus do we justify the proud boast that reverence for the church, devotion to country, and pride of ancestry are the cardinal virtues of the members of the Society of Colonial Wars.



THE DEDICATION OF BRADDOCK BOULDER



GROUP OF THE MEMBERS AT BRADDOCK BOULDER

REMARKS AND REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF
THE SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS FOR THE
MARKING OF HISTORICAL PLACES IN OR
NEAR THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Unveiling of the Braddock Boulder.

The scene of the unveiling with the distant gleam of the Capitol and the white shaft to the memory of Washington seen through the vista of majestic trees could not be otherwise than impressive. A large American flag was hung suspended between two oaks and the bronze tablet was covered by two laurel wreaths, one with the British and the other with the American colors.

As the weather was unpropitious, a portion of the services took place within the church of St. Alban, including the delivery of the Governor's address. At its conclusion, the clouds fortunately broke away, and the procession was formed of the clergy and choir, the members of the Society and people present. They marched, singing a hymn, and assembled about the memorial stone. The National colors were carried by Mr. Henry O. Hall, and that of the Society by Major Gilbert Thompson. These were held at the opposite sides of the memorial stone. The services then proceeded, according to the adopted order, and were reverently followed by the Society and the concourse of people present.

A dedication service was arranged by the Reverend Roland Cotton Smith, Chaplain of the Society, who conducted the services. This service was printed for record and the use of those present at the dedication.

The ceremony of the unveiling was performed by the Hon. James Bryce, British Ambassador.

The choir of St. Alban's was assisted by a section of the Marine Band. Deserved appreciation was bestowed upon Mr. Fred D. Owen for skillful arrangement of the details. In place of further description some of the photographs taken at the time are reproduced.

Extract from the Dedication Service.

Then the memorial shall be unveiled, and the Minister shall say:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

On behalf of the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, in the City and Diocese of Washington, I do dedicate this Stone, set here, hard by the road along which General Braddock, and his soldiers of the Colonial Army, marched to Fort Duquesne, and erected by the Society of the Colonial Wars, in the District of Columbia, as a memorial of the labours and sufferings of our forefathers in planting religion and civilization in this land.

The Lord bless us, and prosper our handiwork upon us. *Amen.*

List of Committees for the Dedication Services.**CHAPLAIN.**

REV. ROLAND COTTON SMITH.

COMMITTEE.

HON. JOB BARNARD,	WILLIAM V. COX,
BEN DEMIER MILLER,	HENRY O. HALL,
THOMAS HYDE,	GILBERT THOMPSON.

MARCUS BENJAMIN.

GRAND MARSHALL.

LEWIS P. CLEPHANE.

AIDES.

ARMISTEAD PETER, JR.,	FRED D. OWEN,
DR. CHAS. F. LANGWORTHY,	STANTON C. PEELLE,
ROBERT ROOT BENNETT.	

Report of the Committee.

Read at the annual meeting of the Society, at the New Willard Hotel, December 3, 1907, and approved.

The Society of Colonial Wars in the District of Columbia, at a meeting held in December, 1904, directed the Governor to appoint a committee to investigate as to any historical places in or near the city of Washington, which might be worthy of preservation or marking, by the Society, and to report at the next annual meeting.

In accordance with this action, the Governor appointed Job Barnard, Gilbert Thompson, Captain R. G. Davenport, Allen

R. Boyd, Thomas Blagden, and Armistead Peter, Jr., as such committee.

The committee held a meeting at the New Willard, on Tuesday evening, October 31, 1905, to consider the matter, having in the meantime conferred with each other, and given such attention to the subject as was practicable.

Among the places suggested at that meeting which seemed worthy of marking were the following:

The Episcopal Church, now being restored, at Falls Church, Fairfax County, Virginia, where General Washington was at one time a vestryman, and near which one division of General Braddock's forces marched and camped, in April, 1755.

The old colonial tavern in Alexandria, "The Carlisle House," where General Braddock held his conference with the Colonial Governors on April 14, 1755, when Governor Morris, of Pennsylvania, Lieut.-Gov. Sharp, of Maryland, Lieut.-Gov. Dinwiddie, of Virginia, Lieut.-Gov. Delancy, of New York, Gov. Shirley, of Massachusetts, and Commodore Keppel, were present.

The site of the old Semmes tavern, on High street, Georgetown, where Gen. Washington spent many days.

The rock known as "the Key of all Keys," and popularly known as "Braddock's Rock," on the former bank of the Potomac, east of Rock Creek.

After discussion, the committee decided to limit its inquiry to the boundaries of the District of Columbia, and finally to recommend to the Society the propriety of suitably marking some spot where Gen. Braddock's forces were actually located, or some point along their line of march, within the boundaries of the present District of Columbia.

On the presentation of the report of this committee to the Society, the same was approved, and a committee of five was appointed to prepare an appropriate tablet commemorating the presence of the Colonial troops, under General Braddock, within the territory now included in the District of Columbia, and to have the same suitably located at some public spot, in said District, along the route taken by them on their march from Rock Creek to Frederick, in April, 1755.

That committee was composed of Job Barnard, Lieutenant-Governor; Dr. Marcus Benjamin, Governor; William V. Cox, Deputy Governor; H. O. Hall, and Benjamin D. Miller. Later the Governor added Gilbert Thompson and Thomas Hyde to the committee.

This committee now has the honor to report that in pursuance of the resolution of the Society it has secured a

boulder of proper size; had it placed on the line of march taken by Braddock's soldiers and seamen, when they went from Rock Creek to Frederick, in April, 1755, and have had prepared and had placed thereon a tablet bearing this inscription:

THIS MEMORIAL
WAS ERECTED IN 1907,
BY THE SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS
IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
TO MARK THE ROAD OVER WHICH,
ON APRIL 14, 1755,
A DIVISION OF THE BRITISH ARMY,
UNDER GENERAL BRADDOCK,
MARCHED ON ITS WAY
TO FORT DUQUESNE.

At the suggestion of Mr. Thomas Hyde, former Governor of the Society, the grounds of the Cathedral at St. Alban, on Wisconsin avenue, was decided upon as the place to erect the said memorial; and the Bishop, and other parties, having charge of the Cathedral grounds, very kindly consented to allow the boulder to be placed thereon, near the Rockville Road, now known as Wisconsin avenue.

The committee succeeded in finding, through Mr. J. B. Millner, a suitable boulder on the farm of Mr. James H. Loughboro, on the river road, north of Tenallytown; and Mr. Loughboro kindly donated this boulder to the Society; and the George W. Knox Express Company very generously sent a wagon and men to Mr. Loughboro's farm, and hauled the boulder to the Cathedral grounds.

Mr. Millner took charge of the matter for the committee; had the bronze tablet made, the boulder placed, and the tablet secured in position, the total cost being \$82.00.

It was a matter of congratulation to the committee that this was all accomplished, and the memorial was on the grounds, an object of much interest, at the recent conference of the Society of St. Andrew, and the services of laying the corner stone for the Cathedral, on September 29, 1907, when thousands of our citizens had the opportunity to see it.

The committee desires to thank Mr. Thomas Hyde for his valuable assistance in securing this location; Mr. W. S. Knox for the donation made by the Knox Express Company; Mr. Loughboro for presenting us with the boulder; and Mr. Millner for his faithful attention to the matter of completing and placing the same.

The committee also deems it of interest to place on record the following correspondence between its chairman, and the Rev. Mr. Bratenahl, Rector of St. Alban's.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *June 15, 1907.*

REV. G. C. F. BRATENAHL,

St. Alban's Rectory, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SIR: As chairman of the special committee of the Society of Colonial Wars of this District, authorized to erect a memorial tablet to mark the route of the march of Gen. Braddock's men from Georgetown, D. C., to Frederick, Md., in 1755, I wish to thank you, and through you the others representing the Cathedral property and that of St. Alban's, for your kind permission to us to place the boulder holding such tablet, on your grounds.

In the near future, when your Cathedral shall be erected, your grounds will be visited by the thousands who come to the National Capital, and while enjoying their visit to your beautiful church they may also see here a reminder of the struggles of our fathers in Colonial days, which resulted in the establishments of our Republic, and the guarantee of religious liberty to all its citizens.

If at any time in the future you, or your successors, shall find it desirable that the site of our memorial boulder should be changed, our Society leaves you free to use your own discretion in making such a change, having full confidence that you will preserve the same in the patriotic spirit in which you have allowed us to place it on your grounds. Sincerely and gratefully yours,

JOB BARNARD,

Chairman of Committee.

ST. ALBAN'S RECTORY,

MT. ST. ALBAN, WASHINGTON, D. C., *July 3, 1907.*

HON. JOB BARNARD,

Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

MY DEAR JUDGE BARNARD: Your very kind letter of June 15th in regard to the memorial tablet to be erected to mark the route of the march of Gen. Braddock to Frederick, Maryland, in 1755, has been received, and I have taken great pleasure in transmitting it to our Bishop.

The boulder on which the tablet is to be affixed is now in place on the Cathedral grounds immediately south of what

we expect will be the main entrance to the Cathedral and where I trust it will remain in perpetuity. We are very glad to have such a reminder of those historic days on the Cathedral grounds. I beg to remain very faithfully, yours,

G. C. F. BRATENAHL.

Respectfully submitted, JOB BARNARD, *Chairman*.

(Signed by the entire committee.)

List of Publications of the Society of Colonial Wars in the District of Columbia—Organized May 20, 1893.

Register of the Society. 1897. With portrait of Richard W. Meade, Rear-Admiral, U. S. N. pp. 124.

Register of the Society. 1904. With frontispiece of badge of the Society of Colonial Wars, and twenty-two portraits. pp. 214.

MEMORIAL PAPERS.

No. 1. George Brown Goode. By A. Howard Clark. With portrait. pp. 8. 1896.

No. 2. Charles F. T. Beale. By Marcus Benjamin. With portrait. pp. 13. 1902.

No. 3. William H. Wilhelm, U. S. A. By Ethan Allen Weaver. With portrait. pp. 9. 1902.

No. 4. Francis A. Roe, U. S. N. By Marcus Benjamin. With portrait and eight illustrations. pp. 35. 1903.

No. —. Richard N. Batchelder, U. S. A. (In preparation.)

HISTORICAL PAPERS.

No. 1. The Colonial boundaries of Virginia and Maryland. By Gilbert Thompson. With map. pp. 8. 1899.

No. 2. An American Sea Captain of Colonial Times. By Francis A. Roe, Rear-Admiral, U. S. N. pp. 11. 1900.

No. 3. Historical Military Powder-horns. By Gilbert Thompson. With eleven illustrations. pp. 16. 1901.

No. 4. Historical Address at Dedication of the Braddock Boulder, Nov. 10, 1907. By Dr. Marcus Benjamin. pp. 16. Four illustrations.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Address of Welcome, by his Excellency, Governor Francis A. Roe, U. S. N., at first dinner of the Society, December 19, 1893. pp. 8.

Preliminary draft of a Constitution, printed upon half-sheets and sent to members for suggestions. pp. 18. November, 1894.

The preceding was adopted and printed in February, 1895. A circular of four pages, with preamble and qualifications for membership, was printed, 1895; also, a similar circular, and giving list of members, was printed January, 1896. A list of membership is published annually as a circular. pp. 4.

The Year Book and Register of the Society, 1897, contains the Constitution and By-Laws as amended to that date.

Preliminary draft of Constitution, printed and sent to members for suggestions. With cover. pp. 17. April, 1902.

The preceding was adopted without change, May 13, 1902, and printed, with embossed seal of the Society on the cover. pp. 16.

First Annual Service, Sunday, February 12, 1905. St. John's Church, Georgetown. (With embossed seal.) pp. 12.

Second Annual Service, Sunday, February 18, 1906. St. John's Church, Washington. (With embossed seal.) pp. 12.

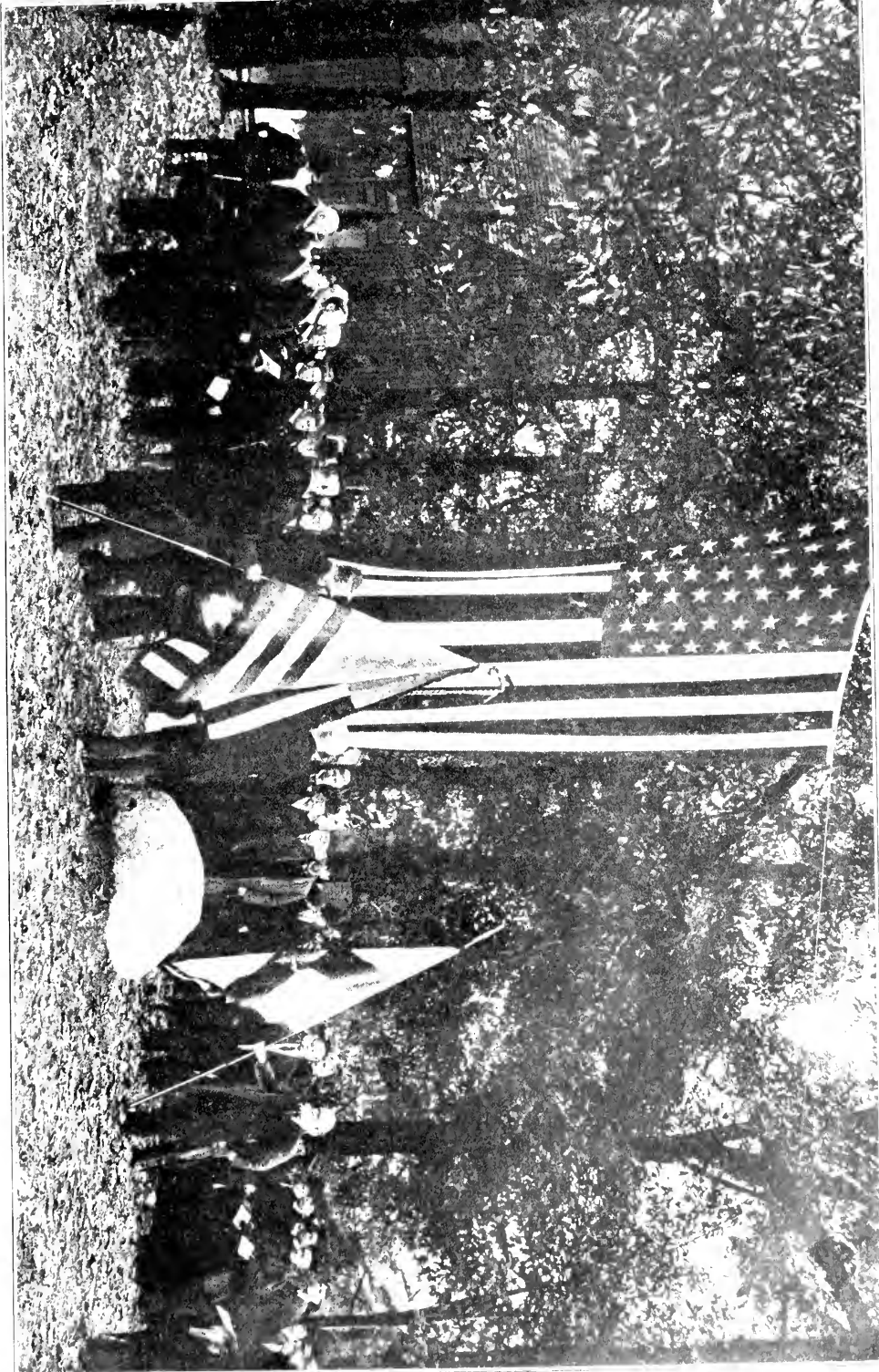
Third Annual Service, Sunday, February 17, 1907. Epiphany Church, Washington. (Without seal.) pp. 12.

Dedication service, Sunday, November 10, 1907. Cathedral Grounds, Washington. One illustration, of the Braddock tablet and boulder. pp. 12.

Fourth Annual Church Service, Sunday, April 26, 1908. Christ Church, Georgetown, D. C. (Without seal.) pp. 8.

GILBERT THOMPSON,
Historian.

Washington, D. C., May 1, 1908.



UNVEILING OF THE TABLET BY AMBASSADOR BRYCE

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